



Upper Delaware Council

PO Box 192, 211 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, New York 12764-0192 • (Tel.) 845-252-3022 • (Fax) 845-252-3359

William E. Douglass, Executive Director • David B. Soete, Senior Resource Specialist
Laurie Ramic, Public Relations/Fund Raising Specialist • Carol Coney, Office Manager

June 5, 2008

WILLIAM J. RUDGE
NATURAL RESOURCES SUPERVISOR
NEW YORK STATE DEC - REGION 3
21 SOUTH PUTT CORNERS ROAD
NEW PALTZ NY 12561-1696

RE: Boating Policy on the Mongaup River below Rio Reservoir

Dear Mr. Rudge,

As the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) continues its internal review of the Unit Management Plan for the Mongaup Valley Wildlife Management Area, the Upper Delaware Council (UDC) recommends that boating be restricted on the Mongaup River below the Rio Reservoir to just the present special weekend releases for kayakers specified in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for the reservoir.

This section of the Mongaup River is a beautiful, pristine area which is one of the prime bald eagle habitats in the eastern United States. It also serves as an important wild trout "hatchery" for the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River. Rio Reservoir was built in the 1920s. Orange and Rockland Utilities only opened the area to fishing in the 1950s and boating was never allowed until the FERC license was issued in 1992. At that time the UDC, local municipalities, and various emergency response organizations were opposed to special two-turbine releases for boating because of safety reasons, not only because of the difficult terrain in the valley for rescues, but concern about the wave created entering the Delaware River. We continue to hear complaints by anglers that boating interferes with their fishing experience. The FERC-required "Recreational Usage Reports," which were prepared up until 2002, largely ignored those conflicts in favor of the boaters.

We are concerned that the Mongaup River will become just another "water park ride" seven days a week if boating is not restricted. We fear that more use will necessitate the need for more facilities, including access roads, which could degrade this unique area. The natural resources and wild nature of the area must be protected.

The UDC hopes that you will seriously take this recommendation under advisement and that the Unit Management Plan will be completed in the near future.

Working together to conserve the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River

*Town of Hancock • Town of Fremont • Town of Delaware • Town of Cochecton • Town of Tusten • Town of Highland • Town of Lumberland
Town of Deerpark • Lackawaxen Township • Shohola Township • Westfall Township • State of New York • Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Delaware River Basin Commission • In partnership with the National Park Service*

Sincerely,



Alan Bowers, Chairperson
Upper Delaware Council

cc: Charles Wieland, Chairman, UDC Water Use/Resource Management Committee
and Town of Tusten UDC Representative
Carol Collier, Executive Director, DRBC
Pete Grannis, Commissioner, NYS DEC
Willie Janeway, Regional Director, NYS DEC Region 3
Michael Flaherty, NYS DEC and UDC Alternate
Peter Nye, Endangered Species Officer, NYS DEC
John LiGreci, Supervisor, Town of Lumberland
Gary Fliieger, Supervisor, Town of Deerpark
Philip Chase, Town of Deerpark's UDC Representative
Jay Shafer, Town of Lumberland's UDC Representative
Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, FERC
H. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Joseph Klimaszewski, Regional Director, Alliance Energy Renewables
Greg Sharland, Plant Manager, AER NY-Gen, LLC (Alliance Energy Renewables)
Alfred Nash, P.E., Regional Engineer, AER NY-Gen, LLC – Mongaup Projects
Mark Singleton, Executive Director, American Whitewater Affiliation
Lauren Cook, Chair, Kayak & Canoe Club of New York
Kevin Colburn, American Whitewater
Vidal Martinez, Superintendent, NPS - UPDE
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